

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STUDY OF AID SUPPORT FOR FREE LABOR UNIONS IN LATIN
AMERICA

REF: STATE 137597 AND 154936

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES THIS STUDY ON HOW, WITHIN CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN ENCIRONMENT, AID CAN BEST CARRY OUT CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO STRENGTHEN FREE TRADE UNIONS. POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN LATIN AMERICA HAVE IN SOME COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PERU, FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED THE MILIEU IN WHICH U... GOVERNMENT LABOR PROGRAMS OPERATE. OUR TRADITIONAL APPROACH, WHILE SUITABLE FOR THE 1960S, MAY NOT MEET EXIGENCIES OF THE 1970S AND IS NEDEED COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN SOME CASES.

2. THEREFORE, A STUDY OF AID LABOR PROGRAMS AND A SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE NEW APPROACHES IS TIMELY. WE SHOULD STUDY WHETHER OR NOT LOOSELY SUPERVISED AIFLD AND ITS "HOLDING OPERATIONS" AS MENTIONED IN AID PROPOSAL ARE WORTHWHILE AND IN U.S. GOVERNMENT INTEREST. THE NEW DEPARTURE IN ONE COUNTRY UTILIZING ORIT AND A "U.S. TRADE UNION CONSULTANT" MAY BE USEFUL IN CERTAIN INSTANCES AND SHOULD BE CLOSELY ANALYZED. USG SUPPORT FOR ACTIVISTS OR ORGANIZERS IN NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS SKIRTS VERY CLOSE TO INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND IS A MORE SENSITIVE ISSUE NOW THAN IN YEARS PAST. WE SHOULD EXAMINE NEW APPROACHES WHICH PROVIDE

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FOR OPEN PURSUANCE OF THE GOAL OF STRENGTHENING FREE TRADE

UNIONS WITHOUT APPEARING TO VIOLATE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

3. IN THE CASE OF PERU, THERE ARE WELL-DEVELOPED NATIONALIST SENSITIVITIES WHICH SOME SECTIRS, INCLUDING THE LEFTIST-INFILTRATED PRESS, WHIP INTO XENOPHOBIA. THE PERUVIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED AND CAUGHT UP IN POLITICAL MANEUVERING RELATED TO THE REVOLUTION AND ITS FUTURE COURSE. THE GOP IS PARTICULARLY ATTUNED TO POSSIBLE FOREIGN "INFILTRATION", PARTICULARLY IF IT IS U.S. AND THEREFORE "IMPERIALIST" IN ORIGIN. EMBASSY CONCERNED THAT USE OF OUTSIDE INTERVIEWS FOR THIS STUDY WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. OUR VIEW AT THIS TIME IS THAT SUTDY TEAM MEMBER MUST CONFINE HIS INTERVIEWS TO EMBASSY AND AID WITH NO OUTSIDE INTERVIEWS. WE HOPE THAT THESE RESTRICTIONS WILL NOT PREVENT HIS TRAVEL TO LIMA. WE FEEL THAT DR. ALEXANDER AND HENRY HAMMOND CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMULATION OF LABOR PROGRAMS AND PERU OFFIERS AN INTERESTING CASE STUDY. HOWEVER, IN PERU FOR ABOVE-STATED REASONS GREAT CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED.

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